

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2104

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 3333

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, UY, US

SUBJ: GOU SENSITIVITIES ON FOREIGN GOVERNMENT

INQUIRIES ON DETAINEES

REF: MONTEVIDEO 3296

1. REFTEL IN PARA THREE REFERS TO SENSITIVITY OF MAKING INQUIRY OF A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT CONCERNING LATTER'S CITIZENS WHO ARE UNDER ARREST. REFTEL IN THIS REGARD COMMENTED SPECIFICALLY ON SAINT-HILAIRE CASE AND HIS PUBLIC DENOUNCEMENT BY GOU FOLLOWING HIS INTERVENTION IN JANUARY 1976 WITH MINDEFENSE ON BEHALF OF JOSE LUIS MASSERA, FORMER SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE URUGUAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY.

2. IN DISCUSSION WITH PAPAL NUNCIO SEPTEMBER 7, DCM WAS TOLD SOMETHING FURTHER OF BACKGROUND OF PRESS ATTACK AGAINST SAINT-HILAIRE AND SUBSEQUENT REPORT THAT LATTER HAD SOUGHT MASSERA'S RELEASE DURING CONVERSATION WITH MINDEFENSE. NUNCIO SAID HE CONVINCED FROM ALL EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO HIM INCLUDING DISCUSSIONS BEFORE AND AFTER FACT WITH SAINT-HILAIRE, THAT LATTER HAD NOT ASKED FOR MASSERA'S RELEASE. NUNCIO SAID HE SATISFIED SAINT-HILAIRE ASKED ONLY THREE QUESTIONS OF MINDEFENSE ON BEHALF OF MASSERA'S FAMILY, I.E. WHERE HE WAS BEING HELD, WHAT HIS PHYSICAL CONDITION WAS, AND WHETHER FAMILY COULD SEND CLOTHING

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AND FOOD TO HIM. NUNCIO SAID NO REPLY RECEIVED TO

THESE QUESTIONS AND AFTERMATH WAS AS IS NOW IN RECORD,
I.E. GOVERNMENT-INSPIRED PRESS ATTACK AGAINST SAINT-
HILAIRE FOR INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND HIS
PREMATURE DEPARTURE FROM URUGUAY. CIRCUMSTANCES THIS
CASE REVIEWED BECAUSE OF NUNCIO'S DENIAL THAT SAINT-
HILAIRE HAD PUSHED FOR MASSERA'S RELEASE AND BECAUSE
EPISODE ITSELF DEMONSTRATES URUGUAYAN SENSITIVITIES RE-
GARDING FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS SEEKING INFORMATION
ON URUGUAYAN CITIZENS UNDER ARREST. THIS RELATES DIRECTLY
TO POINT MADE IN REFTEL.
SIRACUSA

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Message Attributes

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